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ABSTRACT

This report analyzes recent developments in the labor-force status of blacks and examines their job situation relative to whites. The recent slowdown in economic activity has had serious repercussions for Negro workers although their situation has deteriorated less than in previous economic declines. Tables provide employment, unemployment, and labor force participation statistics. Data are separated by age, color, sex, occupation, and full- or part-time labor force status. (Author/BH)

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Employment
in Perspective:

The Negro Employment Situation

REPORT 391

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
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1971

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
J. D. Hodgson, Secretary

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
Geoffrey H. Moore, Commissioner

Preface

This report is the latest in the Bureau of Labor Statistics series on Employment in Perspective. The earlier publications include Employment in Perspective: An Examination of Recent Developments in the Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment, BLS Report 380, June 1970, and Employment in Perspective: Youth Job Situation in Summer 1970, BLS Report 383, August 1970. The present report analyzes recent developments in the labor force status of Negroes and examines their job situation relative to whites.

This report was prepared in the Bureau's Office of Manpower and Employment Statistics, Division of Employment and Unemployment Analysis, by Gloria P. Green, under the supervision of John E. Bregger.

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Employment in Perspective: The Negro Employment Situation

Introduction

The recent slowdown in economic activity has had serious repercussions for Negro workers.[1] However, their employment situation did not deteriorate quite as much as it had during previous economic declines, and their unemployment rate rose at a slightly slower pace, proportionally, than did the rate for white workers.

Both Negro and white unemployment rates in 1970 were at their highest annual levels since 1964. The Negro jobless rate increased from 6.4 to 8.2 percent between 1969 and 1970, while the white rate increased from 3.1 to 4.5 percent. The advance in the Negro rate was relatively less than the rise in the white rate. As a result, the ratio of Negro-to-white jobless rates, which had not been below 2 to 1 at any time since 1953, fell to 1.8 to 1 in 1970.

Early in 1971, the relative position of Negro-to-white joblessness remained essentially as it was during 1970. The Negro jobless rate was 9.5 percent in the first quarter, compared with a rate of 5.5 percent for white workers. The ratio between the two rates was 1.7 to 1, slightly below the 1970 ratio.

This report examines recent developments in the employment and unemployment situation of Negroes and provides some possible explanations for the recent behavior of the Negro jobless rate.

Labor Force Status

The Negro civilian labor force continued to expand in 1970 at a fast pace despite the reduced availability of jobs. (See table 1.) At 9.2 million, the Negro labor force was up 250,000 from the 1969 level, the largest annual advance since 1960. Three-fifths of the 1969–70 expansion occurred among adult men, primarily in the 20 to 34 year-old category. A large part of the adult male increase reflected the return to civilian life of young men separated from the Armed Forces during the year. The adult female labor force rose somewhat less, and the teenage labor force showed no growth over the year.

Continuing the trend which has been in evidence for the past decade, the Negro labor force participation rate registered a small decline in 1970. However, the reduction in participation was comparatively smaller than in the past several years. This decline continued to be particularly evident among males, primarily teenagers and young men 20 to 24 years of age. (See table 2.) However, the 1969–70 decline in participation rates for 20 to 24 year-old Negro males occurred at a time when the participation rate for young adult white males was rising. For the latter group, the rise in participation rates represents a reversal of trend, because rates for both Negro and white men in this age group had been declining since the mid-1960's, although the decline for whites had been at a somewhat slower pace than that for Negroes. Labor force participation among Negro female teenagers and young women 20 to 24 years of age also declined in 1970; in contrast, among white women, participation rates for both age categories increased significantly in 1970. This declining participation among young Negroes became pronounced in the third quarter of 1970, and corresponded with an upsurge in their jobless rate; this rise suggests increased discouragement over job prospects in the last half of the year.

Employment

Negro employment, at 8.4 million in 1970, rose 60,000 or nearly 1.0 percent from 1969 to 1970. This change compares with a much larger employment increase (215,000) in the previous year. The 1969–70 job growth, which was proportionately about equal to the rise in white employment, was divided evenly between adult men and women, as the number of employed teenagers changed little over the year. In contrast, the gain in white employment occurred almost entirely among adult women.

Full- and part-time employment. The relatively small over the year increase in Negro employment occurred exclusively in part-time employment, as was the case

[1] Statistics for members of Negro and other minority races—called "Negro and other races"—are used to indicate the situation for Negro workers. Negroes constitute about 92 percent of this larger group.

among white workers. The number of Negroes on part-time schedules rose about 90,000. Most of these persons were involuntary part-time workers, i.e., those who had taken a part-time job only after failing to find full-time work or whose workweek was reduced to less than 35 hours because of unfavorable economic factors. The number of workers on full-time schedules (working 35 or more hours a week) fell slightly in 1970. (See table 3.) By contrast, more than four-fifths of the 215,000 increase in Negro employment in 1969 had been accounted for by workers on full-time schedules.

Occupational changes. During the decade of the 1960's, Negro employment in the better-paying occupations had risen rapidly, while employment in the lower-paying, less secure occupations declined.[2] In 1970, despite the economic slowdown, Negroes continued to make further progress up the occupational ladder.

Table 4 shows the number of Negroes employed in each occupational group and the extent of change between 1969 and 1970. Although the rise (60,000) in total Negro employment was small, the number of Negroes employed in white-collar occupations rose 7 percent, or 160,000. This increase primarily reflected a significant advance in the number of Negroes securing jobs in the professional, technical, and managerial fields. As a result, the proportion of all Negro workers who were employed in white-collar jobs reached 28 percent in 1970 compared with 26 percent in 1969. Nevertheless, the proportion of Negroes in white-collar jobs still remained well below that of white workers, of whom 50 percent were in white-collar jobs in 1970. However, younger Negro workers (the newer jobholders) were concentrated more heavily in these jobs than older Negroes; the same was true among whites but to a much lesser degree.

Within the blue-collar sector, Negro employment was essentially unchanged over the year. Consistent with recent trends, employment of farm and private household workers continued to decline in 1970.

Table 5 shows the distribution of Negroes and whites among occupation groups.[3] Only 13 percent of the employed Negroes held professional, technical, and managerial positions in 1970 compared with 26 percent for whites. Similarly, among skilled craftsmen and foremen, the proportions were 8 percent for Negroes and 14 percent for whites. Twenty-two percent of all employed Negroes were engaged in private household work, farm, and laboring jobs, more than twice the proportion for whites (9 percent). However, in 1960, the proportion of Negroes employed in these jobs had been much higher—40 percent. The extent of Negro penetration in the major occupational categories also is highlighted in table 6, which indicates the relative share of the Nation's jobs held by Negroes in each occupation. Overall, although Negro employment gains for the year were achieved in the higher-skill, higher-level occupations, Negroes still constitute a disproportionate share of the workers in most low-paying occupations.

Unemployment Developments

Despite the fact that they represent only 11 percent of the civilian labor force, Negroes or members of other minority races were 18 percent (750,000) of the Nation's 4.1 million jobless workers in 1970; they were 20 percent of the total (570,000) in 1969.

Age-sex distribution. Between 1969 and 1970, unemployment among Negro adult men rose much more sharply than among adult women or teenagers. Their unemployment increased about 60 percent, and their unemployment rate rose from 3.7 to 5.6 percent, reaching its highest point since 1965. Joblessness among Negro adult women and teenagers increased somewhat less rapidly (about 20 percent each). The jobless rate for adult women rose from 5.8 to 6.9 percent, while the teenage rate increased from 24.0 to 29.1 percent.

[2] For a long-term analysis of the occupational advances of Negroes, see Claire Hodge, "The Negro Job Situation: Has It Improved?" Monthly Labor Review, January 1969, pp. 20–28.

[3] Statistics based on major occupational groupings mask important differences within the groups. Within any of the broad occupation groups for which data are available, there are occupations with a wide range of earnings levels and status, and Negroes may have entered the lower levels in greater proportions than they have entered the higher levels. Moreover, differences in pay exist even within a specific occupation, and these too could result in a greater degree of occupational inequality than is apparent from the broad occupational group data.

Of the 750,000 jobless Negroes in 1970, about 265,000 were adult men, 250,000 were adult women, and 235,000 were teenagers. About three-fifths each of the jobless adult men and women were in the central age group—25 to 54 years of age. Joblessness among teenagers in 1970 was distributed about equally between boys and girls. Most of the unemployed adult men had lost their previous jobs, the majority of the jobless adult women were returning to the labor force after a period of absence, and most of the teenagers were seeking their first jobs.

Full time, part time. The increase in Negro joblessness over the year was concentrated among adult male full-time jobseekers. The rate for all Negro full-time jobseekers increased from 5.8 to 7.7 percent, while the rate for Negro part-time workers rose at a somewhat slower pace—from 10.0 to 11.5 percent.

Despite the reduced availability of jobs, more than four-fifths of the jobless Negro workers in 1970 were seeking a full-time job. These included 250,000 unemployed adult men (nine-tenths of all unemployed adult men), 215,000 adult women (four-fifths of all unemployed adult women), and 155,000 teenagers (two-thirds of all unemployed teenagers). Teenagers comprised about three-fifths of the 140,000 Negro part-time jobseekers in 1970.

Duration of unemployment. The incidence of joblessness among Negroes in 1970 was primarily of a short-term nature. Among those Negroes unemployed at any point of time in 1970, the average length of time they had been unemployed through the reference week of the survey, was 9.0 weeks in 1970; this number was up only moderately over the 1969 level of 8.5 weeks. These figures compare with an average duration of unemployment for whites of 8.7 and 7.8 weeks in 1970 and 1969, respectively. (See table 7.)

In the average week in 1970, about 380,000, or one-half of the jobless Negro workers, had been unemployed for 1 month or less, while 250,000 or one-third had been jobless 5 to 14 weeks. At the other extreme, however, 125,000, or 16 percent, were among the long-term unemployed, that is, had looked for work for 15 weeks or longer. About 50,000 of these long-term unemployed were household heads.

Occupational distribution. Among the major occupation groups, Negroes last employed in blue-collar occupations experienced the sharpest rise in unemployment over the year. The jobless rate for Negro blue-collar workers rose from 5.7 to 8.6 percent. Within the blue-collar group, operatives and unskilled laborers posted the largest increases; the rate for operatives increased from 5.9 to 8.9 percent, while the rate for laborers climbed from 7.4 to 10.5 percent. Within the white-collar group, clerical workers experienced the biggest rise in joblessness. In general, the increases in occupational unemployment were not substantially different among white workers, except for the large advance in joblessness in the professional and technical category, which was almost entirely among whites.

As a whole, unemployment among Negroes was most prevalent among lesser skilled workers in 1970. Unskilled laborers, service workers (private household and other), and semiskilled operatives together represented more than three-fifths of the experienced unemployed Negroes, about equal to their proportion of total employment.

Comparative Unemployment Trends

One way of looking at comparative unemployment trends between black and white workers is to examine the relative unemployment rates of the two groups. In doing this, it must be required that the comparison of overall rates is affected by the age-sex composition of the two groups, since women and youth tend to have higher rates than adult men, and the age-sex composition of the Negro and white labor force is both different and changing over time. It also must be recognized that changes in labor force participation rates are sometimes associated with changes in unemployment: When unemployment rises, some people tend to drop out of the labor force.

As indicated earlier, the number of both Negro and white jobless workers rose sharply during 1970. Between 1969 and 1970, Negro unemployment increased by 180,000 (31.9 percent) and joblessness among whites rose by 1.1 million (47.6 percent). As a result, the ratio of Negro-to-white jobless rates, which

had averaged 2 to 1 or higher every year since 1953, dropped from 2.1 to 1 in 1969 to 1.8 to 1 in 1970.

The narrowing of the differential between the two rates began to take place around mid-1969, when the first employment effects of the slowdown became noticeable, and the differential continued to edge downward throughout 1970 and early 1971. To illustrate these developments more clearly, table 8 shows the seasonally adjusted quarterly rates for Negro and white workers from 1969 through the first quarter of 1971. As the table indicates, the Negro jobless rate (seasonally adjusted) moved down from 6.6 percent in the second quarter of 1969 to 6.3 percent in the fourth quarter, while the rate for whites inched up from 3.1 to 3.3 percent. As a result, the differential fell from 2.1:1 to 1.9:1. As joblessness for both Negro and white workers continued to rise in 1970 and early 1971, the relative increase for Negroes continued to be smaller than for whites. The ratio reached 1.7 to 1 by the fourth quarter of 1970 and remained at this level in the first quarter of 1971. Nevertheless, since the fourth quarter of 1969, the ratio of Negro-to-white joblessness has been below the 2-to-1 pattern that had prevailed for more than a decade. This narrowing in the Negro-white jobless rate ratio was caused exclusively by further comparative improvements in the job situation among adult Negroes. As shown in table 8, the ratio of Negro-to-white joblessness for adult men was 1.8 to 1 in 1970 compared with 1.9 to 1 in 1969. For adult women, the differential dropped from 1.7 to 1 in 1969 to 1.6 to 1 in 1970.

A lowering of the Negroes' jobless rate relative to that for whites first became apparent for adults in the mid-1960's; for example, in 1964, the Negro-white ratios were 2.3 to 1 for adult men and 2.0 to 1 for adult women, at a time when the overall ratio was 2.1 to 1. By 1969, these ratios had dropped to 2.0 to 1 for men and 1.7 to 1 for women, whereas the overall ratio remained unchanged at 2.1 to 1. The reason for this shift is that the unemployment rate for Negro teenagers deteriorated considerably relative to that for whites over this period at the same time that teenagers were becoming a larger proportion of total unemployment.

For Negro teenagers, the jobless rate in 1970 (29.1 percent) continued to be more than double the rate for white teenagers (13.5 percent), and the ratio of their unemployment rates was not significantly changed during the economic slowdown. The ratio of Negro-to-white teenage joblessness was last below 2 to 1 in 1964 (1.8:1). In 1965, the Negro teenage rate rose to double the white rate, and by 1967, it was 2.4 times as high. In both 1969 and 1970, the rate for Negro teenagers was about 2.2 times as high as that for white teenagers.

The problem of joblessness among Negro teenagers continued to be most serious among girls. In 1970, the unemployment rate for Negro teenage girls increased from 27.6 to 34.4 percent, while the rate for Negro teenage boys rose from 21.2 to 24.9 percent. Thus, although the 1970 ratio of Negro-to-white joblessness among male teenagers dropped below the 2-to-1 pattern that had held since 1965 (1.8 to 1), the ratio of Negro-to-white jobless rates of female teenagers increased from 2.4 to 1 in 1969 to 2.6 to 1 in 1970.

Some Factors in the Declining Ratio of Negro-White Joblessness

To understand better the 1969–70 change in the ratio of Negro-white unemployment rates, it is necessary to bear in mind that Negroes and members of other minority races historically have constituted a disproportionate share of the unemployed. Prior to the fall of 1969, Negroes made up 2 out of every 10 of the total unemployed, twice their proportion of the civilian labor force. During the period of rising unemployment, the number of Negroes added to the swelling jobless total continued to exceed their 1 to 10 labor force ratio. They accounted for approximately 1½ out of every 10 persons added to the unemployed rolls, although this figure is less than the historical 2 out of 10 proportion. Therefore, the "narrowing" in Negro-white joblessness differentials in recent months was not quite as dramatic as might appear at first glance. Proportionate to the size of their labor force, more Negroes than whites still became unemployed in 1970.

A number of factors may have played a part in the narrowing of the Negro-white

unemployment rate differential. First, the industrial distribution of Negro employment appears to have played a major role. The narrowing of the ratio between the two rates first began to take place around mid-1969, when the slowdown in employment growth generally was confined to a few "sophisticated" industries where the work force was disproportionately white. In particular, substantial job cutbacks in defense and aerospace industries—mainly in ordnance and aircraft—tended to exert upward pressure on the white unemployment rate but had little or no effect on the rate for Negroes, who are not employed in these industries in large numbers.[4] Conversely, relatively few cutbacks occurred in the service industries and government, where many Negroes are employed. This explanation is supported by the fact that most of the narrowing of the black-white jobless ratio took place prior to 1970.

Second, as mentioned earlier, labor force participation rates for Negro youth between the ages of 16 and 24, particularly among males, fell at the same time that rates for white young persons were rising. This decline was an indication that a disproportionate number of young Negro workers were becoming discouraged over job prospects and leaving or refraining from entering the labor force. These differential movements in labor force participation appear to have had some effect upon the narrowing in the Negro-white jobless rate ratio, particularly during the latter half of 1970 when the discouragement became more pronounced, since it is generally assumed that higher participation for this age group would partially be reflected in higher unemployment.

Third, it is possible that employers have become more conscious of both public and private efforts to alleviate the social and economic ills of Negroes. To the extent that they are aware of these moves, they have made special efforts to improve hiring standards for Negroes and to retain them or at least to refrain from laying them off discriminately during periods of employment reductions. However, there is no clear statistical evidence to support this contention.

Finally, the long-term rise in the levels of education and skill among Negroes has enabled many to enter occupations where joblessness tends to be lower than in those where Negroes were employed earlier. Moreover, the effect of the government manpower programs have permitted large numbers of Negroes to move into, and gain some seniority in, better-paying jobs. Nonetheless, as indicated earlier, Negroes remain concentrated heavily in comparatively low-paying jobs within the service-producing industries, which, in any case, have been less affected by the slowdown in economic activity.

Some Additional Considerations

The relatively slower upturn of the Negro jobless rate during the past year and a half also has given rise to some hopes of a permanent narrowing of the Negro-white unemployment differential. Although the above factors appear to have contributed to the recent narrowing of the Negro-white unemployment rate ratio, during previous cyclical economic swings short-lived narrowings of the ratio also have taken place in the initial stages of the slowdown. During the recovery phases, the ratio typically reverted to its previous pattern. In none of the previous slowdowns, however, did the ratio remain below 2 to 1 for an extended period.

A brief examination of the 1960–61 recession may serve to clarify the point. In May of 1960, the cyclical peak of economic activity had been reached and the Nation was about to enter its third recession in less than 10 years. As seen in table 9, the jobless rate and level for white workers, after remaining stable during the first half of 1960, edged up in the third quarter and rose substantially in the fourth quarter. In contrast, the jobless rate and level for Negroes remained stable for the first three quarters of 1960 and rose only in the fourth quarter. As a result, the jobless rate differential fell from 2.2:1 in the first quarter of 1960 to 1.9:1 in the third quarter. The fourth quarter rise in Negro joblessness, however, caused the ratio to edge back to 2.0:1. As the 1960–61 recession deepened, jobless levels and rates for both Negroes and whites rose by a similar degree, as they have during much of 1970. By the second quarter of 1961, unemployment for both whites and Negroes had peaked, but in the ensuing recovery

[4] See Employment In Perspective, BLS Report 380, June 1970.

Negro unemployment declined at a much slower pace than white unemployment. Consequently, the differential rose from 2.0 to 1 in the second quarter of 1961, when unemployment rates for both whites and Negroes were at their highest level, to 2.2:1 the fourth quarter of 1961 and 2.4:1 in the second quarter of 1962.

* * *

The Negro-to-white jobless rate differential narrowed markedly during the 1970 slowdown in economic activity, as the ratio fell below 2 to 1 for the first time since 1953. However, earlier experience would suggest that a permanent reduction of the ratio of Negro and white jobless rates cannot be verified until the recovery phase of the current slowdown is passed.

Table 1. Civilian labor force, employment, and unemployment by color, sex, and age, annual averages, 1969–70

(Numbers in thousands)

Employment status, sex, and age	Negro and other races				White			
	1970	1969	Change		1970	1969	Change	
			Number	Percent			Number	Percent
Civilian labor force	9,197	8,954	243	2.7	73,518	71,779	1,739	2.4
Men, 20 years and over	4,726	4,579	147	3.2	42,463	41,772	691	1.7
Women, 20 years and over	3,664	3,574	90	2.5	24,616	23,839	777	3.3
Both sexes, 16–19 years	807	801	6	.7	6,439	6,168	271	4.4
Employed	8,445	8,384	61	.7	70,182	69,518	664	1.0
Men, 20 years and over	4,461	4,410	51	1.2	41,093	40,978	115	.3
Women, 20 years and over	3,412	3,365	47	1.4	25,521	23,032	489	2.1
Both sexes, 16–19 years	573	609	−36	−5.9	5,568	5,508	60	1.1
Unemployed	752	570	182	31.9	3,337	2,261	1,076	47.6
Men, 20 years and over	265	168	97	57.7	1,371	794	577	72.7
Women, 20 years and over	252	209	43	20.6	1,095	806	289	35.9
Both sexes, 16–19 years	235	193	42	21.8	871	660	211	32.0
Unemployment rate	8.2	6.4	1.8	28.1	4.5	3.1	1.4	45.2
Men, 20 years and over	5.6	3.7	1.9	51.4	3.2	1.9	1.3	68.4
Women, 20 years and over	6.9	5.8	1.1	19.0	4.4	3.4	1.0	29.4
Both sexes, 16–19 years	29.1	24.0	5.1	21.3	13.5	10.7	2.8	26.2

Table 2. Civilian labor force participation rates [1] by color, sex, and age, annual averages, 1960–70

Sex and age	Negro and other races				White			
	1970	1969	1965	1960	1970	1969	1965	1960
Total	61.8	62.1	62.9	64.5	60.2	59.9	58.5	58.8
Males								
16 years and over	76.5	76.9	79.6	83.0	80.0	80.2	80.8	83.4
16–19 years	47.3	49.5	51.3	57.5	57.5	56.8	54.1	55.9
20–24 years	83.5	84.4	89.8	90.4	83.3	82.6	85.3	87.8
25–54 years	91.9	92.3	94.1	94.8	96.3	96.5	97.0	97.3
25–34 years	93.7	94.4	95.7	96.2	96.7	97.0	97.4	97.7
35–44 years	93.2	92.7	94.2	95.5	97.3	97.4	97.7	97.9
45–54 years	88.2	89.5	92.0	92.3	94.9	95.1	95.9	96.1
55–64 years	79.2	77.9	78.8	82.5	83.3	83.9	85.2	87.2
65 years and over	27.4	26.1	27.9	31.2	26.7	27.3	27.9	33.3
Females								
16 years and over	49.5	49.8	48.6	48.2	42.6	41.8	38.1	36.5
16–19 years	34.1	34.6	29.5	32.8	45.6	44.6	39.2	40.3
20–24 years	57.7	58.6	55.2	48.8	57.7	56.4	49.2	45.7
25–54 years	59.1	59.2	57.9	56.3	48.8	47.8	43.6	41.3
25–34 years	57.6	57.8	54.0	49.7	43.2	41.7	36.3	34.1
35–44 years	59.9	59.5	59.9	59.8	49.9	48.6	44.3	41.5
45–54 years	60.2	60.8	60.2	60.5	53.7	53.0	49.9	48.6
55–64 years	47.1	47.5	48.9	47.3	42.6	42.6	40.3	36.2
65 years and over	12.4	11.9	12.9	12.8	9.5	9.7	9.7	10.6

[1] Percent of the civilian noninstitutional population in the civilian labor force.

Table 3. Full- and part-time labor force status of Negroes and other races by sex and age, annual averages, 1969–70

(Number in thousands)

Full- and part-time status	Total		Men, 20 years and over		Women, 20 years and over		Both sexes, 16–19 years	
	1970	1969	1970	1969	1970	1969	1970	1969
Full time								
Civilian labor force	8,018	7,813	4,491	4,380	3,010	2,922	517	510
Employed	7,402	7,357	4,244	4,228	2,797	2,742	362	387
Full-time schedules	6,872	6,898	4,032	4,042	2,550	2,531	291	325
Part time for economic reasons	530	459	212	186	247	211	71	62
Unemployed, looking for full-time work	616	456	248	152	214	180	155	124
Unemployment rate	7.7	5.8	5.5	3.5	7.1	6.1	29.9	24.4
Part time								
Civilian labor force	1,179	1,141	235	199	654	652	290	291
Employed, voluntary part time	1,043	1,027	217	183	615	622	210	223
Unemployed, looking for part-time work	136	114	18	16	38	29	80	68
Unemployment rate	11.5	10.0	7.5	8.1	5.9	4.5	27.5	23.5

Table 4. Employment of Negroes and other races by occupation, annual averages, 1960–70

(Number in thousands)

Occupation	1970	1969	1965	1960	Change					
					1960–69		1965–69		1969–70	
					Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	8,445	8,384	7,643	6,927	1,457	21.0	741	9.7	61	0.7
White-collar workers	2,356	2,197	1,493	1,113	1,084	97.4	704	47.2	159	7.2
Professional and technical	766	695	524	331	364	110.0	171	32.6	71	10.2
Managers, officials, and proprietors	297	254	204	178	76	42.7	50	24.5	43	16.9
Clerical workers	1,113	1,083	630	503	580	115.3	453	71.9	30	2.8
Salesworkers	180	166	135	101	65	64.4	31	23.0	14	8.4
Blue-collar workers	3,561	3,591	3,133	2,780	811	29.2	458	14.6	–30	–.8
Craftsmen and foremen	692	709	521	415	294	70.8	188	36.1	–17	–2.4
Operatives	2,004	2,004	1,646	1,414	590	41.7	358	21.7	0	0
Nonfarm laborers	866	877	966	951	–74	–7.8	–89	–9.2	–11	–1.3
Service workers	2,199	2,239	2,419	2,196	43	2.0	–180	–7.4	–40	–1.8
Private household	652	714	963	982	–268	–27.3	–249	–25.9	–62	–8.7
Other	1,546	1,525	1,456	1,214	311	25.6	69	4.7	21	1.4
Farm workers	328	356	599	841	–485	–57.7	–243	–40.6	–28	–7.9
Farmers and farm managers	87	84	138	219	–135	–61.6	–54	–39.1	3	3.6
Laborers and foremen	241	272	461	622	–350	–56.3	–189	–41.0	–31	–11.4

Table 5. Occupational distribution of employment by color, annual averages, 1960–70

Occupation	Negro and other races				White			
	1970	1969	1965	1960	1970	1969	1965	1960
Thousands of employed persons	8,445	8,384	7,643	6,927	70,182	69,518	63,445	58,850
Percent distribution	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White-collar workers	27.9	26.2	19.5	16.1	50.8	49.8	47.9	46.6
Professional and technical	9.1	8.3	6.9	4.8	14.8	14.5	13.2	12.1
Managers, officials, and proprietors	3.5	3.0	2.7	2.6	11.4	11.1	11.2	11.7
Clerical workers	13.2	12.9	8.2	7.3	18.0	17.7	16.6	15.7
Salesworkers	2.1	2.0	1.8	1.5	6.7	6.5	6.9	7.0
Blue-collar workers	42.2	42.8	41.0	40.1	34.5	35.5	36.4	36.2
Craftsmen and foremen	8.2	8.5	6.8	6.0	13.5	13.6	13.7	13.8
Operatives	23.7	23.9	21.5	20.4	17.0	17.8	18.4	17.9
Nonfarm laborers	10.3	10.5	12.6	13.7	4.1	4.0	4.3	4.4
Service workers	26.0	26.7	31.6	31.7	10.7	10.5	10.3	9.9
Private household	7.7	8.5	12.6	14.2	1.3	1.3	1.6	1.7
Other	18.3	18.2	19.1	17.5	9.4	9.2	8.7	8.2
Farm workers	3.9	4.2	7.8	12.1	4.0	4.2	5.4	7.4
Farmers and farm managers	1.0	1.0	1.8	3.2	2.4	2.5	3.3	4.3
Laborers and foremen	2.9	3.2	6.0	9.0	1.6	1.7	2.1	3.0

Table 6. Employment of Negro and other races as a percent of total employment in major occupation groups, annual averages, 1960–70

Occupation	1970	1969	1965	1960
Total	10.7	10.8	10.8	10.5
White-collar workers	6.2	6.0	4.7	3.9
Professional and technical	6.9	6.5	5.9	4.4
Managers, officials, and proprietors	3.6	3.2	2.8	2.5
Clerical workers	8.1	8.1	5.7	5.2
Salesworkers	3.7	3.5	3.0	2.4
Blue-collar workers	12.8	12.7	11.9	11.6
Craftsmen and foremen	6.8	7.0	5.7	4.9
Operatives	14.4	13.9	12.3	11.8
Nonfarm laborers	23.3	23.9	26.2	26.8
Service workers	22.6	23.5	27.1	27.4
Private household	41.8	43.8	49.2	49.8
Other	19.0	19.3	20.9	20.1
Farm workers	10.5	10.8	14.8	16.2
Farmers and farm managers	5.0	4.6	6.2	7.9
Laborers and foremen	17.6	18.8	25.4	25.9

Table 7. Unemployed persons by color and duration of unemployment, annual averages, 1969–70

Duration	Negro and other races				White			
	Level, in thousands		Percent distribution		Level, in thousands		Percent distribution	
	1970	1969	1970	1969	1970	1969	1970	1969
Total	752	570	100.0	100.0	3,337	2,261	100.0	100.0
Less than 5 weeks	379	315	50.4	55.3	1,758	1,314	52.7	58.1
5 to 14 weeks	248	176	33.0	30.9	1,041	651	31.2	28.8
15 weeks and over	124	79	16.5	13.9	538	296	16.1	13.1
15 to 26 weeks	77	50	10.2	8.8	350	192	10.5	8.5
27 weeks and over	47	29	6.3	5.1	188	104	5.6	4.6
Average (mean) duration, in weeks	9.0	8.5	-	-	8.7	7.8	-	-

Table 8. Unemployment rates and ratios by color, sex, and age, 1969 to first quarter 1971

Color, age, and sex	Annual averages		Seasonally adjusted quarterly averages								
			1971	1970				1969			
	1970	1969	1st	4th	3d	2d	1st	4th	3d	2d	1st
Total:											
White	4.5	3.1	5.5	5.4	4.8	4.3	3.8	3.3	3.3	3.1	3.0
Negro and other races	8.2	6.4	9.5	9.3	8.5	8.2	6.9	6.1	6.5	6.7	6.2
Men, 20 years and over:											
White	3.2	1.9	4.0	4.0	3.5	3.1	2.6	2.1	2.0	1.8	1.8
Negro and other races	5.6	3.7	6.7	6.8	6.1	5.6	4.4	3.9	3.8	3.6	3.5
Women, 20 years and over:											
White	4.4	3.4	5.3	5.2	4.6	4.2	3.8	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.3
Negro and other races	6.9	5.8	8.3	7.4	7.0	7.1	6.0	5.3	6.2	6.2	5.7
Both sexes, 16–19 years:											
White	13.5	10.7	15.7	15.8	13.8	13.1	12.1	10.8	11.1	10.5	10.6
Males	13.7	10.0	15.3	15.6	14.3	13.6	11.6	10.3	10.4	9.5	10.2
Females	13.3	11.5	16.3	16.0	13.1	12.4	12.7	11.4	11.9	11.7	11.2
Negro and other races	29.1	24.0	31.8	32.8	29.8	27.7	25.3	24.0	23.3	25.4	23.4
Males	24.9	21.2	30.2	28.7	26.0	24.1	20.8	21.2	21.2	22.1	20.5
Females	34.4	27.6	33.9	38.3	34.4	32.2	31.5	27.9	26.1	29.5	27.2
	Ratio of Negro-to-white jobless rates										
Total, both sexes	1.8:1	2.1:1	1.7:1	1.7:1	1.8:1	1.9:1	1.8:1	1.8:1	2.0:1	2.2:1	2.1:1
Men, 20 years and over	1.8:1	1.9:1	1.7:1	1.7:1	1.7:1	1.8:1	1.7:1	1.9:1	1.9:1	2.0:1	1.9:1
Women, 20 years and over	1.6:1	1.7:1	1.6:1	1.4:1	1.5:1	1.7:1	1.6:1	1.5:1	1.8:1	1.9:1	1.7:1
Both sexes, 16–19 years	2.2:1	2.2:1	2.0:1	2.1:1	2.2:1	2.1:1	2.1:1	2.2:1	2.1:1	2.4:1	2.2:1
Males	1.8:1	2.1:1	2.0:1	1.8:1	1.8:1	1.8:1	1.8:1	2.1:1	2.0:1	2.3:1	2.0:1
Females	2.6:1	2.4:1	2.1:1	2.4:1	2.6:1	2.6:1	2.5:1	2.4:1	2.2:1	2.5:1	2.4:1

Table 9. White and Negro employment status during 1960–61 recession

(Numbers in thousands)

Color, sex, and age	Seasonally adjusted quarterly averages									
	1962		1961				1960			
	2d	1st	4th	3d	2d	1st	4th	3d	2d	1st
White										
Civilian labor force	62,595	62,520	62,503	62,579	62,759	62,696	62,345	62,117	61,965	61,304
Employment	59,612	59,449	59,083	58,804	58,830	58,877	58,831	58,981	59,079	58,494
Unemployment	2,983	3,071	3,420	3,775	3,929	3,819	3,514	3,136	2,886	2,810
Unemployment rate	4.8	4.9	5.5	6.0	6.3	6.1	5.6	5.0	4.7	4.6
Negro										
Civilian labor force	7,830	7,833	7,841	7,812	7,754	7,796	7,849	7,789	7,713	7,495
Employment	6,939	6,949	6,906	6,835	6,753	6,829	6,962	7,036	6,946	6,743
Unemployment	891	884	935	977	1,001	967	887	753	767	752
Unemployment rate	11.4	11.3	11.9	12.5	12.9	12.4	11.3	9.7	9.9	10.0
Negro-to-white jobless rate differential	2.4:1	2.3:1	2.2:1	2.1:1	2.0:1	2.0:1	2.0:1	1.9:1	2.1:1	2.2:1

	Percent changes			
	1961–62 4th to 2d quarter	1961 2d to 4th quarter	1960–61 4th to 2d quarter	1960 1st to 3d quarter
White				
Civilian labor force	0.1	−0.4	0.7	1.3
Employment	.9	.4	0	.8
Unemployment	−12.8	−13.0	11.8	11.6
Unemployment rate	−12.7	−12.7	12.5	8.7
Negro				
Civilian labor force	−.1	1.1	−1.2	3.9
Employment	.5	2.3	−3.0	4.3
Unemployment	−4.7	−6.6	12.9	0
Unemployment rate	4.2	−7.8	14.2	−3.0
Negro-to-white jobless rate differential	-	-	-	-

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